(b) The Planning Commission constituted a "Special Group on Targeting 10 Million Employment Opportunities Per year" under the Chairmanship of Dr. S.P. Gupta, Member, Planning Commission *vide* Order No. P-12049/9/01-LEM/ERS dated 5.9.2001. The Special Group has examined the recommendations of the Task, Force on Employment Opportunities in detail. The Special Group gave recommendations for generating additional employment in the Tenth Plan. It identified sectors/ subsectors with employment potential like agriculture, including social forestry, animal husbandry, fishing, horticulture and related areas and small and medium industries construction tourism information technology, financial sector, education and health.

(c) Does not arise.

Downsizing Assam Government

2436. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Planning Commission has suggested downsizing financial crippled Assam Government as 90 per cent of its budget is spent on payment of salaries only, and that the State Government, having a monthly overdraft of Rs. 200 crore is unable to mobilise even 10 per cent of funds needed for many Centrally-sponsored development schemes; and

(b) if so, the factors responsible for this as in 1950-51 its per capita income was 4 per cent above national average and in 1998-99 it was 41 per cent below the national average?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) With the partition of the country the State lost on trade and commerce with the neighbouring areas as riverine transportation through Bangladesh (erstwhile East Pakistan) stopped. Further, over the period State's population grew at an average rate of around 4% as against the national average rate of 2.4% due to immigration from neighbouring states and Bangladesh.

Poor infrastructure, lack of fiscal prudence, continuous de-forestation, recurring floods and erosion are the other major factors responsible for

reversing the growth trend in the per-capita income. Continued insurgencies and social turbulence are also responsible for draining the scant resources of the State and the State has not been able to achieve the desired results from the Plan schemes over the years.

Job opportunities in Rajasthan

2437. SHRI R.K. ANAND :
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to open new avenues like launching of new industries to create job opportunities for educated, uneducated, skilled and unskilled people of Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details of such proposal;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) The status of Government's agenda for providing employment opportunities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (d) Developing industries in districts/regions of a State and creating investment climate and requisite infrastructure for attracting enterpreneurs to invest in industries are primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government. The Central Government acts as a facilitator, particularly for industrialization of backward areas of the country and with this objective in mind, the Central Government is implementing Centrally Sponsored Schemes for setting up growth centers for the industrial development of remote and backward areas of the States, including Rajasthan. In addition to this, the Central Government provides assistance to the states for infrastructure development for exports and allied activities. Five Growth Centres and one Export Promotion Industrial Park have been approved by the Government of India in the State of Rajasthan.

The Tenth Five Year Plan has given due importance to the generation of employment opportunities. Assuming 8 per cent annual growth rate of (GDP); and no change in the present sectoral employment elasticities, it is estimated that employment opportunities would increase by about